New pharma policy

†621. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new pharmaceutical policy in the country is being reconsidered upon by a Minister level committee;

(b) if so, when was the responsibility of policy reconsideration was attributed to the Minister level committee and by when the report of the same was targeted to be received finally;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the efforts to reduce the prices of medicine on the part of Government would remain ceased until the report of the above committee is received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GoM). The First meeting of the GoM was held on 10.4.2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.

(c) No, Sir.

New fertilizer policy

†622. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new fertilizer policy is required for encouraging the setting up chemical fertilizer manufacturing projects in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have discussed with the industrial sector in respect of evolving new fertilizer policy; and

(d) if so, the suggestions came out during the discussions and by when the new policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The pricing policy for new and expansion projects in urea sector has been notified by the Government in January, 2004. The existing policy has not been successful in attracting investments in this sector. Moreover, the availability of gas, which is the critical feedstock for production of urea, has been a major constraint in attracting investments in this sector.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.